

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A replication process for manufacturing a plurality of optical elements~~an element~~ having a structured surface with structural features, comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a replication tool having, on a replication surface, negative structural features being a negative of at least some of the optical element structural features, and further having at least one spacer portion protruding from the replication surface, the at least one spacer portion comprising at least a portion arranged between the structural features corresponding to different optical elements,
 - b. providing a substrate comprising a first surface and a preliminary product ~~having~~ a material component in a plastically deformable or viscous or liquid state, and
 - c. bringing said material component in contact with said replication surface while the spacer portion abuts against ~~a step~~ the first surface of the substrate while the material component is between the replication tool and the substrate and thus replicating from the replication surface, the ~~structured surface~~ plurality of optical elements,

- d. hardening the material component, and
- e. removing the replication tool,
- f. wherein the hardened material component adhering to the first surface of
the substrate forms the plurality of optical elements.

2. – 17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the spacer portion comprises a plurality of spacers arranged in a regular pattern.

19. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the spacer portion is contiguous.

20. (New) The process according to claim 1, the replication tool comprising elastomeric material components.

21. (New) The process according to claim 20, wherein the replication tool further comprises a rigid back plate (33).

22. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the replication tool further comprises alignment pins.

23. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the spacer portion is arranged in a manner that at least one spacer portion border is formed around

a replication area in a manner that the spacer portion border at least partially borders the replication area and forms a flow stop or re-directs the liquid material during the replication process.

24. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein the replication tool comprises PDMS.